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# ALLEN: DEFENCE RAPS US

## COUNSEL TALKS OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN COUP TRIAL *Bid to oust British interest*

MR. J. O. B. OMOTOSHO, a defence counsel in the coup trial involving Dr. Victor Leonard Allen and three Nigerians, yesterday accused the United States Government of influencing the trial.

He was addressing the Ikeja Magistrate's Court on the admissibility of the statement made to the Police by Mr. Sidi Khayam, one of the three Nigerians charged along with Dr. Allen for plotting to overthrow the government of Nigeria by military means.

He also accused the NATO powers of having interest in the country, and added that to be specific the answer as to why the trial should come into being at all, lay in the influence of the United States in Nigeria, where, he said, they were trying to supplant the British.

He added: "Right here, in Lagos, in our lagoon and within our territorial waters, the United States Tracking Station is there floating.

"There is another in Kano which is not floating: as though these were not enough, there is a news monitoring service in Kaduna. It is from these sources that all these oppositions to our constitution and these attacks on Nigerian citizens as in this case, do emanate," counsel said.

He pointed out that the dangers was that Nigeria was not safe, and that the country's defences were not safe "when foreign powers, particularly the United States Government, plan or build our arsenals

and military barracks."

### COMMUNISM

He said what had happened now was all of a peace show, the same pattern of what had happened elsewhere. "The current news," he went on, "is about Vietnam and the Congo, the only Government which takes the initiative in this attack on the people is the United States."

Counsel pointed out that it was the United States that took side against Communism and that the

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